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Reagan urged to cancel trip by Shultz

By Mary Beicher and Bill Gertz
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The senior Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday urged President Reagan to "show some guts" and cancel Secretary of State George Shultz' trip to Moscow next week in response to security breaches at the U.S. Embassy there.

Rep. William Broomfield of Michigan said Mr. Reagan did not go far enough in announcing that the Soviets could not occupy their new Tunlaw Road NW embassy until a U.S. Embassy under construction in Moscow is declared free of electronic eavesdropping devices.

"I think it's about time we showed some guts and show them [the Soviets] it's not business as usual," Mr. Broomfield said in a telephone interview. He also expressed his strong feelings to senior White House officials.

His sentiments were shared by Democrats, as well. "We should put the Soviets in a swamp somewhere," Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd said, referring to the their new embassy compound near Georgetown. "Let's see if we can't find a good one that's got some alligators in it."

Mr. Shultz, meanwhile, is still scheduled to leave Sunday for Moscow, where he will meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Mr. Broomfield said the meeting should be canceled and rescheduled in a neutral spot such as Helsinki, Finland.

He said the discussions will be "very difficult and embarrassing" for Mr. Shultz in Moscow, in light of recently discovered security breaches at the existing U.S. Embassy there and at the new compound under construction.

"It is time for us to let them [the Soviets] know we are extremely upset," Mr. Broomfield said. "I think we ought not to allow Soviet officials to be laughing at us."

Espionage charges were filed recently against two Marine guards who were allegedly seduced by female Soviet spies at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The new \$191 million embassy compound, built by Soviet workers, has been found to be riddled with spying devices.

The Soviet's new embassy on a hilltop here is said to be equipped with sophisticated listening devices that would allow Soviet officials to intercept communications from the White House, Pentagon and other high-level offices.

Mr. Broomfield proposed legislation Monday that would force the United States and Soviet Union to abandon construction of the new embassies.

"We've been 'Uncle Sucker' too long," said Rep. Henry Hyde, Illinois Republican and a member of the House Foreign Affairs and Intelligence committees.

Mr. Hyde said the U.S. Embassy under construction in Moscow should be razed and rebuilt by American workers under "strict supervision." He agreed with Mr. Broomfield that the Shultz-Shevardnadze meeting should be canceled.

"There has to be some penalty for this," Mr. Hyde said. "We cannot conduct business as usual pretending nothing has happened."

Two members of a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee this week paid a surprise visit to Moscow, where they toured the U.S. Embassy on Monday and yesterday surveyed the building under construction.

After declaring security at the existing embassy "fully compromised," Rep. Dan Mica, Florida Democrat, and Rep. Olympia Snowe, Maine Republican, said it would take five to 10 years to purge the new U.S. compound of bugging devices.

Mr. Mica and Ms. Snowe recommended a complete overhaul of the existing embassy's "grossly inadequate" security system and said State Department personnel and Marine guards should take lie detector tests before they are assigned to Moscow.

They also found a "negative attitude toward Marines" by key embassy personnel and a "lax" approach to security practices. They

reported that "the use of the Marine security guard system in its present form may be unsuitable in areas where the intelligence threat against the embassy is as high as it is in the Eastern bloc countries."

Intelligence experts reacted cautiously to Mr. Reagan's pledge to ensure embassy security.

N. Scot Miler, a former CIA counterintelligence official, said he was very skeptical that the U.S. compound under construction in Moscow could be made secure.

"The Soviets prefabricated sections of the new [Moscow] building and that means you've got audio devices in the walls," Mr. Miler said. "How do you neutralize those? If you discover six, does that mean four are left? It's inordinately complicated."

Mr. Miler said the "only way" to guarantee security at the embassy under construction would be to "start over" with a new building.

George Carver, another former CIA official, said he hopes the White House will follow through with the president's directive on the embassy.

"I like and admire the president, but I wish his advisers would remember on Thursday what the president says on Tuesday," Mr. Carver said.

"He swore we would never negotiate with terrorists, but that's precisely what we did in the Iran affair. He now says that if the embassy isn't certified as 'bug-free,' we'll tear it down," Mr. Carver said. "The problem is, it's never going to be bug-free."

Mr. Carver said any construction carried out in Moscow without U.S. supervision allows the Soviet KGB intelligence service to exercise "unrestricted free rein over the project."

"We have been utterly naive" in dealing with the Soviets on the new embassy building, he said.

Roy Godson, a Georgetown University expert on Soviet intelligence, said the president's actions were "welcome news," but the security problems are formidable.

"It took us 15 years to get into this hole and it's going to take many years of sustained work to counter the hostile intelligence threat," Mr. Godson said.

He said counterintelligence reforms have met widespread bureaucratic resistance within government.

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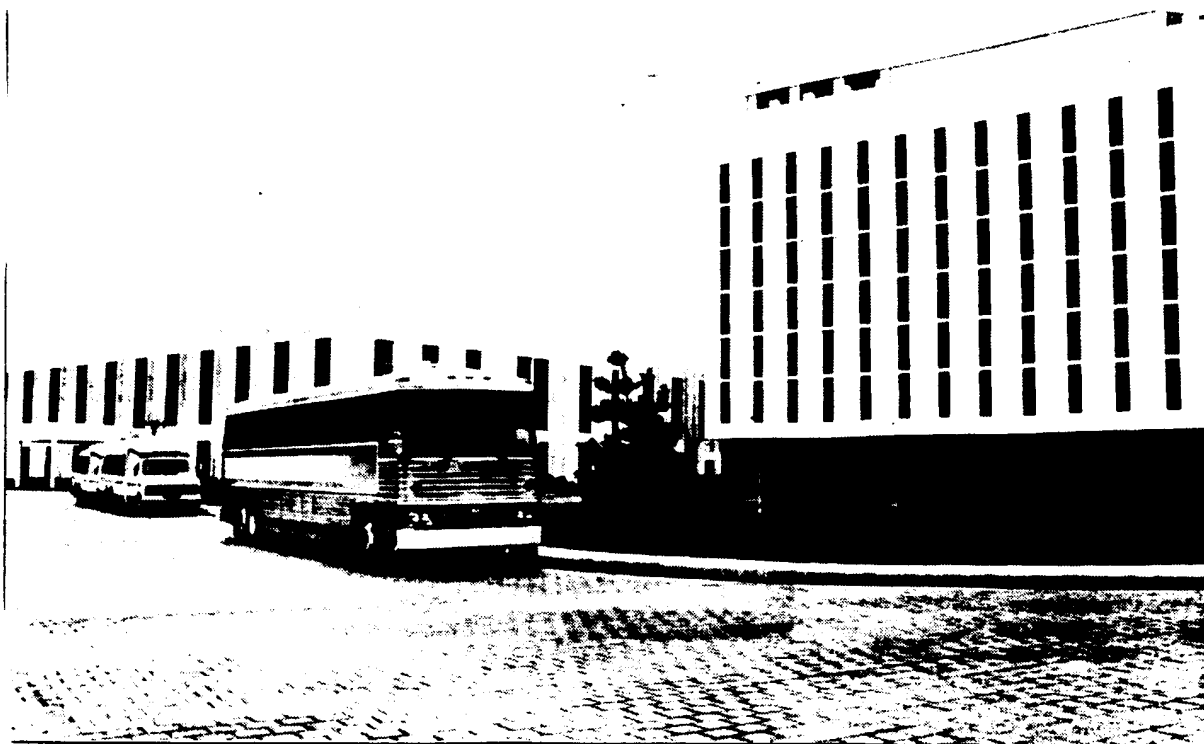
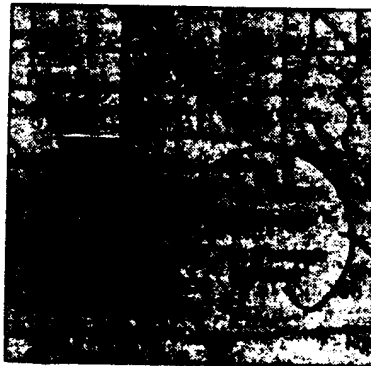


Photo by Stephen Crowley The Washington Times

The newly built Soviet Embassy compound is located on a hill with an unobstructed view of the Pentagon.

LISTENING POST

President Reagan will not let the Soviets move into their new embassy, at a prime hilltop location on Tunlaw Road NW, until Americans occupy a new building in Moscow. The Soviets were allowed to acquire one of the highest knolls in the District, where a VA hospital once stood, after years-long negotiations. Elevations are approximate.



Map by Paul Woodward The Washington Times